

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Pruitt Blatantly Ignores the Law, Leaving San Antonio and El Paso Communities
Unprotected under Smog Pollution**

San Antonio, TX. - Donald Trump's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, Scott Pruitt, flouted a significant legal deadline on October 2, declining to implement new, stronger clean air protections against smog pollution as required by the Clean Air Act. Pruitt was legally obligated to publish EPA's initial designations of which areas of the country have air quality that meets or violates the new 70 part per billion smog pollution standard.

Initial designations are a vital part of implementing the new standard because all requirements to improve air quality are keyed to the date of the designations. In Texas, the San Antonio and El Paso areas suffer from higher smog pollution and should have received designations. In addition, the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston-Galveston-Brazoria areas are also in violation of the air quality standard. The new standard will also mean that Hood County will become part of the DFW nonattainment area, which will bring the total number of Texas counties with poor air quality to 28.

In response, Greg Harman, San Antonio Clean Energy Organizer with the Sierra Club, released the following statement:

"This is really pathetic. The EPA missing a deadline is nothing new, but to willfully ignore smog pollution designations puts people's lives at risk. Smog-forming pollution from traffic and the CPS Energy coal plants is hurting San Antonio. It puts thousands of children with asthma in our community and our overall economy at risk.

Pruitt is yet again failing to protect our health, failing to do the job he was sworn to do, and failing Texas businesses that need some basic level of assurance that government can function."

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